System Efficiency

Another means for altering travel demand is the development of a more efficient system of streets that will better serve travel desires. A more efficient system can reduce travel distances, time, and cost to the user. Improvements in system efficiency can be achieved through the concept of functional classification of streets and development of a coordinated major street system.

Application of Thoroughfare Planning Principles

The concepts presented in the discussion of operational efficiency, system efficiency, functional classification, and idealized major thoroughfare system are the conceptual tools available to the transportation planner in developing a thoroughfare plan. In actual practice thoroughfare planning is done for established urban area and is constrained by existing land use and street patterns, existing public attitudes and goals, and current expectations of future land use. Compromises must be made because of these and the many other factors that affect major street locations.

Through the thoroughfare planning process it is necessary from a practical viewpoint that certain basic principles be followed as closely as possible. These principles are listed below:

- 1. The plan should be derived from a thorough knowledge of today's travel its component parts, and the factors that contribute to it, limit it, and modify it.
- Traffic demands must be sufficient to warrant the designation and development of each major street. The thoroughfare plan should be designed to accommodate a large portion of major traffic movements on a few streets.
- 3. The plan should conform to and provide for the land development plan for the area.
- 4. Certain considerations must be given to urban development beyond the current planning period. Particularly in outlying or sparsely developed areas that have development potential, it is necessary to designate thoroughfares on a long-range planning basis to protect rights-of-way for future thoroughfare development.
- 5. While being consistent with the above principles and realistic in terms of travel trends, the plan must be economically feasible.